

Get GPS Data Plug-in

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This manual describes the use of the *Get GPS Data* Plug-in for thinkDB™ 2.0. For more information on thinkDB 2.0 and other thinkDB Plug-ins, please visit <http://www.thinkingbytes.com>. For information on additional thinkDB Plug-ins created by PDA Bytes, please visit <http://www.pdabytes.com>.

1. **thinkDB Plug-in Overview**
2. ***Get GPS Data* Overview**
3. **Installation**
4. **Uninstalling**
5. **Usage Overview**
 - a. Configuring Plug-in fields
 - b. Running the Plug-in
6. **Optional uses**

1. thinkDB Plug-in Overview

A thinkDB Plug-in is simply an add-on program that fills a specific purpose in thinkDB. As such, they extend the functionality of thinkDB. For example, there is currently (as of thinkDB 2.0) no means to concatenate 2 Text fields together. If you have a tinyByte™ with a FirstName Text field and a LastName Text field, there is no facility for joining them together (concatenation) and having them appear as one field of "FirstName LastName" (or "LastName, FirstName"). A Plug-in can fill this void.

2. *Get GPS Data* Overview

a) The purpose of the *Get GPS Data* Plug-in is to simply return GPS data to a thinkDB tinyByte. This data includes longitude, latitude, altitude, and UTC date & time. In addition, the *Get GPS Data* Plug-in can return the current Palm handheld date and time. This Plug-in should prove invaluable to anyone who travels, hikes, climbs, sails, fishes, hunts, explores, etc. It will allow the capture and retention (in a thinkDB tinyByte) of location coordinates at any desired time. Obviously then, with this captured information you could use it in numerous ways, such as: inputting the coordinates into mapping software to see your travel path or using it to retrace your path to that favorite fishing hole or that uninhabited island with the pure white beaches.

b) The GPS unit must be able to output in NMEA-0183 v2.0 standard protocol. Fortunately, this includes most brands of GPS units. Some brands support multiple protocols so you may need to configure your GPS to make sure it's output is in the correct protocol. Be sure to consult your manual or check the manufacturer's website if you're not sure.

c) Finally, the GPS unit must be able to be attached correctly to your Palm. Currently, there are a couple of units (Rand McNally's StreetFinder) that attach directly to the serial port of a Palm (there's one that works on a Palm III and one that works on a Palm V). If you want to connect a GPS unit to your Palm via a cable, you will need to consult with your manufacturer to see if they supply such a cable. If not, the following website does offer cables that will connect directly from a Garmin (and Garmin compatible) GPS to your Palm - www.blue-hills-innovations.com. They also offer connectors if you want to

make your own.

3. Installation

There are a couple of ways to install a thinkDB Plug-in (or any Palm OS application):

- a. Double-click the .prc file to be installed.
- b. Select Install from within Palm Desktop and choose the .prc file.

In both cases, the Palm™ Install Tool will then present a dialog to continue installation. After doing a HotSync®, the Plug-in will be installed into thinkDB and is ready for use. To verify that it was installed correctly, launch thinkDB on your handheld, choose Tools/Plug-in Manager from the application menu. Tap the arrow beside "Plug-In:" and you should see the Plug-in listed. If not, repeat install instructions. If you do see it listed, it has been installed.

4. Un-installing

To remove a Plug-in from thinkDB, first remove the Plug-in from all fields in all your tinyBytes. If you do not, you will encounter problems and could potentially corrupt data. Once you have removed all references of it from your tinyBytes, choose Tools/Plug-in Manager from the thinkDB application menu. Tap the arrow beside "Plug-In:", tap on the Plug-in you wish to remove, then tap the "Delete..." button.

5. Usage Overview

Before configuring any Plug-in, you must first create the fields that the Plug-in requires for both input and output. There is no input needed for this Plug-in. There are 7 possible output fields. (Descriptions of these output fields follow.) After creating these fields, continue with the instructions for configuring the Plug-in to utilize these fields.

a. Configuring Plug-in fields:

1. From the Field Editor, select Field Type ThinkDB Plug-in from the Field Type list. Selecting the small box to the right will then open the Field Properties dialog.
2. From the Plug-in list, select *Get GPS Data*. One field will appear - "Results In".
3. Selecting the three dots (...) to the right of "Results In" will allow you to choose the fields to store the longitude, latitude, altitude, UTC date, UTC time, date and time.
4. All fields are optional.

b. Running the Plug-in:

There are 2 methods for having any Plug-in perform its duties:

1. Place the "plugged-in" field onto a form and tap it.
2. "Apply" the Plug-in from the "Filtered Operations" screen (which is one of the menu options that appears by tapping on the "tool" icon).

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